

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9557
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652:NA
TAGS: PINT, UK, UR
SUBJECT: BUKOVSKIY IN BRITAIN - PART II

REF: LONDON 404 (NOTAL)

1. SOVIET DISSIDENT VLADIMIR BUKOVSKIY LEFT THE UK
FOR THE CONTINENT ON JANUARY 15TH. HIS FINAL HOURS
WERE MARKED BY DOMESTIC POLITICAL SQUABBLES INVOLVING
ALL THREE OF BRITAIN'S MAJOR PARTIES.

2. ON JANUARY 14TH, BUKOVSKIY VISITED THE HOUSE OF
COMMONS AS THE GUEST OF FORMER LIBERAL PARTY LEADER AND
MRS. JEREMY THORPE. (MRS. THORPE, WHO SPEAKS FLUENT
RUSSIAN, INTERPRETED FOR BUKOVSKIY IN THE GALLERY.)
CONSERVATIVE LEADER MARGARET THATCHER USED BUKOVSKIY'S
PRESENCE AS AN OCCASION TO EULOGIZE HIM AND TO OBSERVE
THAT BY NOT MEETING WITH BUKOVSKIY, PRIME MINISTER
CALLAGHAN WAS DENYING HIMSELF AND HIS GOVERNMENT THE
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OPPORTUNITY TO GET SOME FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON
SOVIET NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.
OBVIOUSLY HARD PUT TO EXPLAIN WHEN HE HAD STOPPED
BEATING HIS WIFE, CALLAGHAN ANGRILY RETORTED THAT
MRS. THATCHER'S OWN MEETING WITH BUKOVSKIY HAD BEEN A
"COY" ONE AND SAID THAT HMG WAS FULLY DOCUMENTED ON
THE STATE OF SOVIET PLAY ON HELSINKI. CALLAGHAN

ADDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO MEET WITH BUKOVSKIY IF IT APPEARED THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE USEFUL.

3. IT WAS LATER REVEALED THAT BUKOVSKIY HAD INDEED BEEN SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS LORD GORONWY-ROBERTS, BUT BUKOVSKIY BEGGED OFF WITH THE CLAIM THAT HE WAS INDISPOSED. ALTHOUGH MANY COMMENTATORS HAVE MADE THE OBVIOUS ALLUSIONS TO "DIPLOMATIC ILLNESS," BUKOVSKIY HIMSELF, HIS FRIEND AND HOST DAVID MARKHAM, AND THE FCO HAVE ALL INSISTED THAT THE INDISPOSITION WAS GENUINE; AS BUKOVSKIY WAS OBVIOUSLY FATIGUED DURING HIS HEAVY SCHEDULE IN BRITAIN, THIS EXPLANATION MAY WELL BE TRUTHFUL.

4. A FURTHER NUANCE TO THE POLITICAL INFIGHTING WAS ADDED WHEN MARIAN WRIGGLESWORTH, SECRETARY OF THE MANIFESTO GROUP (THE LABOR PARTY'S "RIGHT WING") SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO MEET BUKOVSKIY AT A RECEPTION HELD BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE, A LABOR PARTY FRINGE GROUP, AND ARGUED THAT IF BUKOVSKIY HAD GENUINELY WISHED TO MEET WITH LABOR PARLIAMENTARIANS, HE WOULD HAVE GONE THROUGH REGULAR PARTY CHANNELS.

5. TOTTING UP THE SCORES, WE NOTE THAT BUKOVSKIY DID MEET WITH THE LEADERS OF THE CONSERVATIVE AND LIBERAL PARTIES (HE SAW DAVID STEEL AT SOME POINT), BUT DID NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEE LABOR'S TOP FIGURES. IN AN EPISODE REMINISCENT OF SIMILAR HAPPENINGS ELSEWHERE, PM CALLAGHAN FOUND HIS POLITICAL OPPONENTS READY TO SKEWER HIM ON THE HORNS OF THE DILEMMA OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT WHO IS SIMULTANEOUSLY CALLED UPON TO BUILD BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND TO WELCOME A LEADING SOVIET DISSIDENT FIGURE.

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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